

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 NEA-10 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 ACDA-19 GAC-01 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 PRS-01 CU-04 L-03 IO-12 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 STR-08 RSR-01 /144 W  
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R 241215 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 213

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 2987

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

S E C R E T USNATO 2536

E. O. 11652: GDS 12/31/81

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJ: FRG REPORT ON BREZHNEV VISIT

BEGIN SUMMARY: KRAPF REPORTED AT LENGTH AND IN DETAIL TO PERMREPS  
AT LUNCH MAY 22 ON THE EVENTS AND CONVERSATIONS DURING BREZHNEV'S  
VISIT TO BONN THROUGH MAY 21. PERMREPS WELCOMED PROMPT AND FULL  
REPORT. END SUMMARY.

1. MAIN POINTS IN KRAPF'S PRESENTATION WERE:

- BREZHNEV TOLD BRANDT THAT SOVIETS EXPECTED CSCE COM-  
MISSIONS TO PROCEED SPEEDILY WITH THEIR WORK SO AS TO PERMIT CSCE  
TO BE COMPLETED IN LATE FALL 1973. BRANDT RESPONDED THAT IT IS  
MORE REALISTIC TO HAVE COMMISSIONS BEGIN THEIR WORK IN SEPTEMBER  
WITH SPRING OF 1974 AS MORE LIKELY TIME FOR CSCE'S PHASE III;

- ON MBFR, BREZHNEV SHOWED HIMSELF TO BE MUCH BETTER  
INFORMED, REASONABLE AND REALISTIC THAN WHEN HE AND BRANDT MET  
IN ORIANDA. BREZHNEV INDICATED A DESIRE TO PROCEED IN MBFR  
THROUGH A SERIES OF SMALL STEPS AND TO ALLOW FOR PAUSES BETWEEN  
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THE STEPS. HE SEEMED READY TO TALK IN MORE CONCRETE TERMS ABOUT  
CBMS, INCLUDING PRIOR INFO ON MAJOR TROOPS MOVEMENTS;

- ON BERLIN, BREZHNEV YIELDED TO BRANDT'S INSISTENCE THAT

THERE MUST BE MENTION OF BERLIN IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS BETWEEN GDR AND FRG AND BETWEEN FRG AND USSR. SUBSEQUENTLY, SOME MEMBERS OF SOVIET DEL TOLD SENIOR FRG OFFICIALS THAT THEY FELT SOVIET REPS IN BERLIN HAD BEHAVED IN SILLY FASHION AT RECENT INDUSTRIAL FAIR IN THEIR TREATMENT OF FRG REPS;

- ON ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS, BREZHNEV SPOKE IN UNREALISTIC TERMS AND DISPLAYED EXAGGERATED EXPECTATIONS OF THE ASSISTANCE WHICH USSR MIGHT RECEIVE FROM FRG. BREZHNEV SAID HE RECOGNIZED FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF EC IS INEVITABLE AND MOSCOW WILL BE OBLIGED TO GIVE IT SOME MANNER OF RECOGNITION. HE SHOWED A MUCH GREATER COMPREHENSION OF THE EC AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE AND ASKED MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BENEFITS THE USSR MIGHT OBTAIN FROM DEALING WITH IT. BREZHNEV INDICATED THAT MOSCOW WOULD SOON TAKE MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN COMECOM SO THAT IT MIGHT BECOME MORE EFFECTIVE IN ITS DEALINGS WITH WESTERN EUROPE. BRANDT POINTED OUT TO BREZHNEV THAT THE SITUATION AS BETWEEN THE TWO ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS IS VERY DIFFERENT SINCE THE USSR IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEMBER OF COMECOM AND THE US DOES NOT EVEN BELONG TO THE EC.

2. KRAPF REPORTED THAT BREZHNEV APPEARED RELAXED AND MASTER OF THE SITUATION AT ALL TIMES. BREZHNEV OFTEN STRESSED IN CONVERATION THAT HIS PRINCIPAL HOPE IS TO CONTINUE TO BUILD PEACE AND ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS MADE REFERENCE TO THE HORRORS OF WORLD WAR II, BUTHE DID SO WITHOUT RANCOR TOWARD HIS GERMAN HOSTS. BREZHNEV TOLD BRANDT THAT HIS OWN POSITION IN MOSCOW HAS BEEN GREATLY STRENGTHENED SINCE THE LAST MEETING OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY AND THAT HE NOW HAS A STRONG POPULAR BASE IN THE SOVIET UNION FROM WHICH TO FORMULATE AND IMPLEMENT HIS POLICY TOWARD THE WEST. HE WAS PROUD OF THE FACT THAT HE RECEIVED A GREAT DEAL OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM PARTY MEMBERS AT THE LOWEST LEVELS AND IS ATTUNED TO THEIR THINKING.

3. A NUMBER OF PERMREPS EXPRESSED WARM APPRECIATION FOR KRAPF' S PROMPT AND USEFUL REPORT. THEY ALSO SAID THEY HAD A DEEP SENSE OF  
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CONCERN REGARDING THE EUPHORIC EFFECT ON WESTERN PUBLIC OPINION OF BREZHNEV' S VISIT TO BONN AND TO WASHINGTON. THE POLITICAL EFFECT IS CERTAIN TO BE FELT, AND THIS COULD HAVE CONSEQUENCES FOR DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. SEVERAL COMMENTED, FOR INSTANCE, ON THE EXTENSIVE SYMPHATETIC DUTCH/ FLEMISH TV REPORTAGE ON BREZHNEV VISIT. DE STAERCKE ADDED THAT SOME BELGIANS ARE ALREADY TALKING OF " BACK TO LOCARNO".

4. KRAPF RESPONSDDED TO PART THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH MOD LEBER IN ANKARA LAST WEEK ABOUT THE STEADY IMPROVEMENT IN SOVIET MILITARY CAPABILITY AND ESPECIALLY ABOUT THE DELIVERIES OF TANKS INTO CENTRAL EUROPE. LEBER ENTERTAINED NO ILLUSIONS AND PLANNED TO TALK WITH BREZHNEV AND GROMYKO

ABOUT THESE DEVELOPMENTS.

5. KRAPF PROMISED MORE EXTENSIVE REPORT ON BREZHNEV VISIT AFTER  
FRG SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING IN BONN ON MAY 25. MCAULIFFE

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